

Public Works Committee
Minutes, October 11, 2011
DPW Conference Room

Committee: Steve Braun (Chair), Mike Cann, Don George, Christine Gray-Mullen, Charlie Moran; Amy Lane (Assistant Superintendent).

Also attending: Anne Cann.

1. Administrative

Minutes of Sept 6 Approved 4-0 (Don George abstaining because he'd not been present at the 9/6 meeting).

Next meetings: November 8, December 6 (Pine Street reconstruction on the Dec. 6 agenda)

On the Fall Town Meeting warrant: sewer extension, land for watershed, easements;

2. Project Updates: Amy Lane, Assistant Superintendent

Spring Street Parking Lot: crosswalks completed, and repaving will be complete by the end of October. Sidewalks will be constructed in spring. Before they can be completed, electrical conduits need to be installed for the new lighting that is part of the Spring Street Parking Lot project.

Street paving will continue until the suppliers of asphalt close—generally around Thanksgiving. Potholes are being filled once every couple of weeks, when we can.

Backfilling of new curbs will be done before the snows, and after the paving season is over. This is DPW's responsibility.

The traffic light on University Drive (Big Y) is in the works. DPW is awaiting delivery of parts. Atkins Corner: the Rambling Road barriers are still in place.

3. Old Business

Update on committee forming to advise consultant charged with review of Town roadways: nothing to report.

4. New Business

Discussion of PWC Charge

Steve Braun reported that Stephanie O'Keefe felt our committee should be vetting sewer/water projects. Mike Cann: argued that we should not go there. Don George: if we do sewer, we do water as well. We'd be responsible for sewer plant, pumping stations, wells. We'd be responsible for signing off on contracts, review of budget. He argued that, given that we're not a Public Works Board, the responsibility is best left with the Town Manager and the Select Board, who are, in Massachusetts Town government law, the Water and Sewer Commissioners. He noted

that the confusion has a history: Mass Highway was once Mass Public Works. Christine Gray-Mullen: agreed that we should not attempt to extend our charge to include water and Sewer. She argued that what we are is a "Public Roads Committee," not "Public Works," and that we need to change our name. Amy Lane: agrees with Christine that the name change is appropriate. Charlie Moran also spoke against the extension of the PWC charge, arguing that the Superintendent of Public Works already reports to the Town Manager and to the Select Board, who are by state statute the Town's commissioners of roads, water, and sewer. He will check out the public works structures in area towns, and report his findings. Steve Braun will circulate a draft of new language for the PWC charge, and will ask for suggestions for edits.

Mike Cann: the railings on the bridge 116 by Grist Mill are disintegrating. The Town is responsible for their maintenance. Amy Lane: we'll bring the state in to evaluate and make a recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec'y pro tem.